

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A supple heating device (1), ~~such as~~ including one of a heating blanket, a heating pad ~~[[or]]~~ and a heated mattress pad, having at least one heater cord (3, 3') arranged on a base heating element (2), a ~~connected~~ connecting cable (5) for energy supply ~~connected thereto~~ via a connecting ~~means~~ device (10) which are insulated toward ~~[[the]]~~ an outside, and a control circuit (6), the supple heating device comprising:

~~characterized in that~~

the connecting ~~means~~ device (10) ~~[[are]]~~ combined into a connecting unit (4) ~~which has~~ having at least one of a common support plate (4.1) ~~and/or~~ and a common encapsulating element (4.3).

2. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the connecting unit (4) is arranged on the base heating element (2) and is fixed in place by a holding ~~means~~ device (2.1).

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3. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with claim ~~[[1 or]] 2, wherein characterized in that~~ the support plate (4.1) is ~~designed as~~ a board with printed strip conductors and supports several connecting elements (10.1, 10.2, 10.3) of the connecting ~~means~~ device (10), ~~some of which are one of~~ connected with an associated heating conductor (3.2, 3.4) and ~~some connected~~ with an associated lead (5.1, 5.2) of the connecting cable (5) and ~~[[-]] to the extent it is provided [[-]]~~ are ~~connected~~ connectible with each other by strip conductors (4.12) for creating respective current paths.

4. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 3, wherein the at least one heater cord (3, 3') has two heating conductors (3.2, 3.4) ~~which are~~ connected at ~~[[the]]~~ one cord end (3.5) with associated leads (5.1, 5.2) of the connecting cable (5) and at ~~[[the]]~~ an other cord end (3.6) are electrically connected with each other one of directly ~~[[or]]~~ and via a rectifier arrangement (8) contained in the connecting unit (4).

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5. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 4, wherein a current safety fuse (9) included in the connecting unit is arranged in ~~[[the]]~~ a supply current circuit ~~[[9]]~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the encapsulation element (4.3) is provided by encasing or by ~~means of two~~ assembled ~~put-together~~ shell elements (4.31, 4.38).

7. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the encapsulating element (4.3) has at least one cord guidance device (4.21) formed ~~thereon~~ on for the heater cords (3, 3'), and a cable guidance device (4.22) for the formed on connecting cable (5) ~~formed thereon~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 7, wherein the encapsulating element (4.3) is ~~made~~ of an elastic plastic material, at least near at least one of ~~in the~~

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~~area of the cord guidance device~~[[s]] (4.21) ~~and/or of~~ and the cable guidance device (4.22), [[and]] is melt-resistant to at least 150° C, ~~as well as~~ is flame-resistant and is resistant to tensile strain.

9. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of claims 6 to claim 8, wherein characterized in that~~ the connecting means device (10) ~~are designed is~~ for inserting and clamping in place with electrical contact at least one ~~or both of the~~ heater cord ends (3.5, 3.6), and on [[its]] a side facing the connecting means device (10)[[,]] a cover element (4.38) has formed-out places[[,]] which work together with the connecting means device (10) ~~in such a way so that~~ [[the]] clamping in place ~~takes place in the course of~~ occurs while putting the shell elements (4.31, 4.38) together.

10. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 9, wherein the connecting unit (4) is fixed in place on the base heating element (2) by fixing in place at least one of the associated connecting cable end ~~and/or~~ and at least one cord end (3.5, 3.6) ~~in place~~.

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11. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support plate (4.1) is a board with printed strip conductors and supports several connecting elements (10.1, 10.2, 10.3) of the connecting device (10) which are one of connected with an associated heating conductor (3.2, 3.4) and connected with an associated lead (5.1, 5.2) of the connecting cable (5) and are connectible with each other by strip conductors (4.12) for creating respective current paths.

12. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least one heater cord (3, 3') has two heating conductors (3.2, 3.4) connected at one cord end (3.5) with associated leads (5.1, 5.2) of the connecting cable (5) and at an other cord end (3.6) are electrically connected with each other one of directly and via a rectifier arrangement (8) contained in the connecting unit (4).

13. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein a current safety fuse (9) included in the connecting unit is arranged in a supply current circuit.

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14. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the encapsulation element (4.3) is provided by encasing or by two assembled shell elements (4.31, 4.38).

15. (New) The device in accordance with claim 14, wherein the encapsulating element (4.3) has at least one cord guidance device (4.21) formed on for the heater cords (3, 3'), and a cable guidance device (4.22) for the formed on connecting cable (5).

16. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the encapsulating element (4.3) is of an elastic plastic material, at least near at least one of the cord guidance device (4.21) and the cable guidance device (4.22), is melt-resistant to at least 150° C, is flame-resistant and is resistant to tensile strain.

17. (New) The device in accordance with claim 6, wherein the connecting device (10) is for inserting and clamping in place with electrical contact at least one of the heater cord ends (3.5, 3.6), and on a side facing the connecting

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device (10) a cover element (4.38) has formed-out places which work together with the connecting device (10) so that clamping in place occurs while putting the shell elements (4.31, 4.38) together.

18. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the connecting unit (4) is fixed in place on the base heating element (2) by fixing in place at least one of the associated connecting cable end and at least one cord end (3.5, 3.6).